GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1314
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2016
Supply of Expired LPG Cylinders
Rai Shri Nityanand

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether instances of supply of expired LPG cylinders have been reported/ come to the notice of the Government in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year, Oil Marketing Companies (OMC)/State/ UT-wise;
(c) whether explosion in LPG cylinders have been reported/occurred on account of supply of expired LPG cylinders;
(d) if so, the number of such incidents identified during the said period, State/UTwise;
(e) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard; and
(f) whether the Government has been able to proposes to supply adequate number of small cylinders vis-a-vis their demand in the country and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)
(a) to (d) : Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies(OMCs) have reported that LPG cylinders are manufactured as per BIS 3196 through manufacturers approved by Chief Controller of Explosives, Nagpur (CCOE) and having BIS License. Thereafter, the LPG cylinders are checked at the LPG Bottling Plants and only the cylinders which are found to meet BIS standards are filled, checked for quality after filling and
are sent to the distributors for distribution to the customers. All new LPG cylinders are required to be put for first Statutory Testing & Painting (ST&P) after 10 years of manufacturing date of
the cylinder. Subsequently, the LPG cylinders are put to ST&P after every 5 years. Such testing of LPG cylinders are done through repairers approved by Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO). LPG cylinders requiring repairs are put for Hot Repairs only once in its lifetime as per BIS codes of practice. Each such Hot Repaired cylinder is certified for use by BIS and accordingly put into circulation thereafter. OMCs have reported that no specific complaint relating to expired LPG cylinders in circulation have been received in the country.
(e) Measures adopted by the OMCs for ensuring safety and educating customers are as under : -
(i) Gas distributors are under instruction to carry out mandatory checks of the LPG installation at the customers premises once in two years.
(ii) Use of suraksha LPG hose with steel wire reinforcement which is rodent attack proof & flame retardant, is being promoted for usage at all customers premises for improving safety in the use of LPG in the domestic kitchen.
(iii) OMCs undertake regular campaigns to improve the safety awareness of the customers. Customer education is imparted right at the time of release of new connection through displays and demo-installation at distributors showroom and at the time of installation of the connection at the residence. Safety leaflets and domestic gas customer card containing instructions on safe use of LPG are also handed over to the customer for reference.
(iv) Safety and customer education clinics are conducted from time to time to increase customer awareness on safe use of LPG.
(v) Emergency service cell has been put in place for attending leakage complaints after working hours of distributorship and on holidays. The contact details of emergency service cells of the particular area are displayed at the distributors showroom and are also printed in the refill cash memos. The numbers are also propagated during the safety clinics.
(f) OMCs have reported that they are marketing 5 kg cylinders also in the country and procurement is made to meet the market demand.